

St. Johnsbury Caledonian

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1913

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This paper is entitled to a place on the Printer's Ink Roll of Honor.

THE CALEDONIAN CO.

OUT OF TOWN AGENTS
Boston—Eagle News Co., 597 Washington and 76 Summer Streets.
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Hope for Real Reform

Chief Justice George M. Powers gave an address of more than passing interest before the Chittenden County Bar Association last week in which he boldly advocated reforms in legal practice before the courts. After expressing a dislike of any calamity howling he stated that he believed the fault with the present system is the adherence to the old common law as to pleadings, a practice that adheres more closely to the form than the substance of law. He advocated that the same pleadings should apply in a court of law and courts of equity. The present rule against hearsay evidence should be liberalized and all experts appearing in court should be appointed by the presiding judge. The wall between courts of law and courts of equity should be extinguished so that a case improperly started in one could be transferred to the other without the expense and delay of beginning all over again. He also suggested majority verdicts in civil jury cases.

In the fewest words at our command we have stated the reforms the Chief Justice suggested. He argued that these changes would comply with popular demand and solicitude for the interests of the public. They would tend to produce a better approximation of justice and would increase resort to the law and the trial of more important business by the courts. His arguments seem sound and the advanced stand taken by Justice Powers will do much to disarm any calamity howling because men of his position and knowledge can suggest sane reforms. The crying need has been such frank and positive suggestion by the members of the court and the bar. We believe with the Chief Justice that Vermont courts are not as bad as some popular expressions would indicate but there is an opportunity to reduce the expense of litigation and make improvements in the practices based on antiquated precedents. It augurs well for the courts and citizens as well that the courts and bar of the state are seriously discussing changes and improvements.

A Valuable Book

In our recent visits to the public library we always noticed one book on the shelf containing the later publications. This book was never out although many others, some of which we wished to get, were nearly always gone from their place. The title of the book, "Farm Management" always attracted our attention and aroused some curiosity as to its contents. Finally after trying in vain to get one of the much read books we asked for this publication and have since read it through and our reading of it convinces us that this is a book that should have a very large circulation among the patrons of the Athenaeum.

Of course it is not a book that would appeal to the common resident of the village but is one that would pay any intelligent farmer to read. There are some things suggested that few farmers would or perhaps could do but it contains much information that would be to the farmer's advantage to know. It is written by G. F. Warren of Cornell University and contains the information secured through wide investigations by the national department of agriculture and state agricultural institutions. It contains information that standardizes various kinds of farm work, the size of farms, the cost and production per acre of various crops, the cost of maintaining different kinds of live stock and so on. In it one would find much that seems simple or they already know but nearly every intelligent farmer would be able to learn something from it. It can be taken from the library free of expense by residents of this town and is a book that should be as widely read as possible during the coming winter evenings.

The People Do Not Rule

Massachusetts has a direct primary law and we have never heard it claimed that it was framed by "the bosses" to defeat the people. It therefore should be a good primary law. But here is what Ex-congressman Washburn says of it: "As matters are now, an aggressive, forceful personality, able and willing to spend any amount of money, cannot only enter the field, upon his own initiative, but can practically keep out of it any opponent who is not willing to pursue the same tactics and to spend as much or more money."

The recent primary and campaign in that state tends to prove the correctness of this statement. The Boston Transcript, a paper that is certainly free from the domination of "the interests," says that Illinois which has a primary law now suggests that the state committee of the political parties name candidates to be voted for in the primaries and it strongly endorses the proposition of Mr. Washburn that state conventions be held previous to the primaries and select candidates to be voted for in the primary. Here are two states that have tried the primary suggesting a return to the selection of candidates either by convention or by a small coterie of politicians. They are doing it because the primary has failed to make proper nominations.

In view of this condition it would seem foolish for Vermont to uproot its entire nominating system and try a system that is proving unsatisfactory elsewhere. We are not opposed to the fullest expression of the people in nominating candidates but it does seem unwise for this state to experiment in this matter until a satisfactory system has been found. The voters should remember these cases when they step into the booth next March to vote whether Vermont shall have a primary law. If there is serious danger that the public will be wronged or defeated under the present system some change should be made but such danger is not so great as it was before the awakening of public sentiment on this matter and we believe it will be safer for Vermont to wait until it can act with certainty than to plunge into the confusion and uncertainty of the present political unrest.

Vermont should be represented at the meeting of the national republican committee to be held this month. But it cannot unless the state republican committee selects a committeeman to succeed the late John L. Lewis. The state committee should certainly exhibit vitality enough to do this or else it should make way for men who have. Vermont cannot expect much voice or influence on the national committee unless it is represented by a man with a national acquaintance and the available man with such an acquaintance and influence is Hon. C. H. Darling of Burlington.

The attempt of the progressive bosses to announce Charles A. Proudy as their candidate for United States Senator has caused much speculation, but it shows the widespread demand there is for him to come into the field. Should he consent to the use of his name there is prospect people without regard to party would come to his support in large numbers because they recognize in him a man of great ability and of a training that would be of great help to the nation in its attempt to properly control large business.

In announcing the introduction of several bills in the house of representatives to regulate the cold storage business and reduce the price of eggs a news dispatch says: "Some officials of the department (of justice) admit that there has been little reduction in the cost of living since the tariff bill became a law and their aim is to discover who is responsible." In other words they propose to increase expenses a few millions in an effort to get things cheaper. It will probably amount to about as much as efforts to lift one's self by his boot straps.

To the many friends and patrons, who have been loyal to me in assisting me to build up a large and generous business in St. Johnsbury: A hearty welcome is extended to my

Up-to-date Jewellery Store

Annex to the Hole in the Wall

The New Store, if possible, will be opened for business Thursday or Friday, December 5th, 1913.

Thanking you all for past favors, which makes necessary a large store to better serve you in your selection of

Diamonds Watches Jewellery Cut Glass and Solid Silver Gifts

and extending best wishes for your continued confidence and trust as in the past.

Faithfully yours,

J. D. BLACKSHAW.

It looks as though American diplomacy is to suffer the same fate that American trade has in the countries to the south of us. American goods are refused because they are made for the Yankees at home and not for the South American people. Our home brand of diplomacy has the same failing and is making little headway in Mexico.

The capture of "Gypsy" Phillips is a very creditable piece of work by the sheriff's department. He had succeeded in escaping capture after his other crimes but Sheriff Worth did not propose to be outwitted this time and his persistent efforts were finally crowned with success.

There is more talk of penny postage on first class mail matter, the claim being made that the parcel post is proving profitable enough to warrant it. If that is true we would like to see more parcel post.

HISTORY OF RYEGATE

A Notable Addition to Vermont Bibliography.

Editor of the Caledonian: I have been greatly interested in reading lately the History of Ryegate, an attractively printed volume of over 600 pages, of which half is a most readable story of the town from its settlement in 1774 to the present time, and the last half records the Ryegate families. Though the matter was compiled from several sources it was edited and really written by that distinguished historian, Frederic P. Wells of Newbury, author of the History of Newbury, which was published about a dozen years ago. Others could have written a history of this town, but no one could do it better because of the author's familiarity with the sources of the old manuscripts and letters, and his remarkable adaptability for saving the essentials and omitting the tedious details in the old documents.

The charter of Ryegate was granted in 1763 by Benjamin Wentworth to Richard Fennessy and 93 of his associates, but none of these became actual settlers of the town. Some ten years later the Scotch American Company was formed at the parish of Inchinnan and two commissioners appointed to purchase a tract of land in America. James Whitelaw and John Rogers were one of these commissioners and the fourth and fifth chapters of the book contain his journal, of which the original copy is owned by the Vermont Historical Society. When the commissioners reached Princetown, "a handsome little town with a college said to be the best and largest building in America" with 100 students and 80 Latin scholars, President Witherspoon made his proposals concerning the sale of land in Ryegate and after a long journey down the Atlantic coast states they returned to Princetown and bargained for one-half of the town of Ryegate. The three succeeding chapters give a most interesting account of the settlement of the town and the correspondence between the settlers and the home company. The story of the construction of the Hazen road occupies an entire chapter, and while it was constructed as a military route, to be used in case of war with Great Britain, it was for years a part of the stage road from Boston to Montreal and the only road in what is now Lamoille and Orleans counties. Perhaps the most valuable historical contribution to the entire work appears in one of the chapters on the revolutionary war, when the instructions from Gen. Burgoyne to Lt.-Col. Baume to sweep up through the Connecticut valley plundering everything in sight. This document is owned by the Tenney Library at Newbury and is now published for the first time. These orders, however, were later countermanded and the troops ordered to Bennington. The rest is history. Three chapters are devoted to the religious history of the colony, the four Presbyterian churches of Ryegate being natural off-shoots of the Presbyterian church in Scotland. Education, manufactures, home life and politics are given due prominence, with many incidents of the anti-Masonry feeling in the early decades of the last century. Mr. Wells cites one instance in Danville where the relatives who were Masons occupied one room and the anti-Masons at the other, at the burial party stood on one side of the grave, and the others ranged themselves on the other side, brothers and sisters on one side not speaking to their brothers and sisters on the other.

In the first, written by Stanley W. Finch, special commissioner for the suppression of the white slave traffic, the writer said, "The social evil has continued one of the great unsolved problems of the human race for four thousand years." He said that the good citizens of many of our cities are giving a great deal of thought and attention to this evil, and the real purpose of the law passed June 25, 1910, was to destroy the nefarious practices of the white slave traffic between states and countries.

In the second article, "Warning to all Women," it was said that young girls and women need to be constantly on the alert against agents of the white slave traffic, and some startling facts were given in proof of this.

From a book written by Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago, the growth of public sentiment in regard to this matter was compared with the growing sympathy of the people with the slavery abolitionists of former days, who were at first told that what they desired was impossible. The author described the unprotected condition of the sales girls in department stores, which are more easy of access than any other place, and the situation of factory girls, whose insufficient wages and cheerless lives make them an easy prey.

Two pleasing solos were given by Miss Ruth Flint, "A Dream," by Lane. Miss Eugenia Scott was the accompanist.

The meeting closed with singing by the audience, "Blest be the tie that binds," accompanied by Mrs. Lucy M. Brooks at the piano, and with the Aaronic benediction.

EAST ST. JOHNSBURY
Mrs. Harriet Shasteny who has spent the past few months at St. Johnsbury has returned to live with her son, Eugene Shasteny.

Gardner Shores and John Potter shot a deer a few days ago.

The Ladies' society will meet at the vestry Wednesday. Mrs. Ella Potter, Mrs. Roy Blodgett and Mrs. H. M. Knapp are the hostesses. The ladies will hold their annual sale next Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Russell entertained Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Russell and Eugene Russell of Kirby and Mrs. Ezra Copp Thanksgiving day.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse of Lancaster, N. H., were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wark last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Wood and daughter from Laconia, N. H., and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown of St. Johnsbury were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wood Thanksgiving day.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Myott of Littleton, N. H., spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Shasteny.

GRANBY
Clyde Rivers and two friends from St. Johnsbury spent last week at his home at Gallup's Mills.

Ceylon and Wilbur Shores each got a fine deer last week.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Willson and family spent Thanksgiving day at the home of his mother in Lunenburg.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Shores and daughter were at W. M. Shores' last week.

Corra and Mina Smith were at home for Thanksgiving.

Edna Wells has returned to her school in Fitzdale.

Louis Nichols was in town one day the past week.

D. L. Wells is in Boston for a short vacation.

School closed Friday. The teacher, Miss Hodgdon, went to her home in Milan, N. H., Monday.

REPORT OF ST. J. & L. C.
Net Income of \$35,641.08 Wiped Out by Interest Charges

(Special to the Free Press)
Lyndonville, Nov. 30.—The annual report of the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain railroad, whose stock is largely owned by the Boston and Maine, was issued to the stockholders yesterday, the figures being for the fiscal year ending June 30. The gross income was \$411,556.05 and the net income would be \$35,641.08 except that out of this must be charged \$66,400 interest on bonds, \$24,406.40 interest on notes and accrued interest of \$55,600 on bonds owned jointly by the Boston and Maine and Boston and Lowell railroads.

The road now extends 97 miles from St. Johnsbury to Swanton and the operating expenses for the year were nearly 74 per cent. The operating revenue per mile was \$3,935.58 against \$3,235.18 the year before, and the operating expenses per mile \$3,106.82 against \$2,456.32 the year previous. The road carried 191,756 passengers as against 205,007 the year previous, but in the same time the freight tonnage increased from 322,771 tons to 334,872 tons.

On the general balance sheet the liabilities include common stock to the amount of \$2,452,449, preferred stock amounting to \$1,154,400 and first mortgage bonds amounting to \$2,500,000. The cost of the road is given as \$4,676,014.66 and the sheet is balanced by charging to profit and loss the sum of \$2,041,174.44. The 28-mile strip from St. Johnsbury to Lunenburg is now leased to the Maine Central at an annual rental of \$25,000.

WELLS RIVER
Mrs. Deming and Miss Peach returned Friday from Peterboro, N. H. Ned Hutchins has gone south to spend the winter.

Miss Isabelle Field on account of having whooping cough was obliged to come home from Middlebury college last week.

There was a family reunion at the Whitelaw farm Thanksgiving day. Mr. and Mrs. William Whitelaw, Miss Marion Whitelaw, Harry Whitelaw and Mrs. Lillian Whitelaw Center and son, all of Massachusetts were home for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Cochran of this place were also guests of the family.

Among those spending Thanksgiving out of town were Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Brock in Newport, Mr. and Mrs. Lyons and Miss Gladys Lyons in Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler in Concord, H. T. Baldwin and family in Hardwick, W. H. and Mrs. Goodwin in Woodsville, Mr. and Mrs. Goss in Woodsville, Mrs. Deming and Catherine Peach in Peterboro.

Last week Tuesday evening, Kimball Marshall was urgently requested to be present at the N. O. F. meeting in Woodsville. He is the only living charter member of the lodge and the members had arranged to surprise for him. Members of neighboring lodges were present and during the evening Mr. Marshall was presented with a past grand's solid gold pin and pendant, beautifully enameled and inscribed. It may not be necessary to say that he was very much pleased as well as surprised.

Mrs. Lucila F. Bickford of Bradford was the guest of Mrs. Goodwin last Saturday p. m.

Henry Munsell, accompanied by a friend came home from Northfield to spend Thanksgiving.

Schools reopened Tuesday having had a recess since Wednesday of last week.

The W. R. study club met with Mrs. John Thomas Monday evening. The program consisted of roll call, favorite quotations, followed by papers by Mrs. McElhin, Miss George,

Mrs. Hebb and Miss Randall. There will not be another meeting in December and the next one will be Jan. 5.

Annual meeting of Col. Preston W. R. C. will be held Wednesday evening, Dec. 3.

SOUTH RYEGATE
Big Victory for the Caledonians in Opening Game—Village Occurrences

The Caledonians defeated the Laconia, N. H., basket ball team at Wells River, Saturday evening. Score 52 to 9. A large number from here attended this, the opening game of the season, going down on the special train.

Rev. Mr. Bolcourt of Waterbury representative of the state Y. M. C. A., gave an illustrated lecture Friday evening in the U. P. vestry to the boy scouts here.

There will be a chicken pie supper in connection with the fair to be held by the L. A. S. of the Presbyterian church Friday afternoon and evening, Dec. 12.

Miss Lillie Grant who was married at Oxbow, Me., last week arrived Monday with her husband, Mr. M. P. Murphy, to spend a short time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Grant.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Taplin went last week to South Deerfield, Mass., to visit their son, Linwood.

Roy Sanderson of Norwich University, Northfield and Miss Margaret Knox, who is attending school at Peacham spent Thanksgiving at George Sanderson's.

Roscoe Brown of Newbury Center proved to be the second lucky hunter of this vicinity, bringing down a 200 pound buck at Groton Pond Saturday.

The South Ryegate junior basketball team defeated the Groton junior team at Groton Thursday evening.

Jonathan Randall who has reached the ripe old age of 92 is quite ill with bronchitis at the home of his niece, Mrs. Lillian Webb, and fears of his recovery are entertained.

Forbes and Raymond Beaton went on the evening train to Boston Monday to take the civil service examination for postoffice clerks.

Burton and Clarence Brown were home for Thanksgiving from the state agricultural school at Haddam.

Miss Ella Samuelson of Haddam Seminary, Barre, was home for the Thanksgiving recess.

Mrs. B. E. Wilson came last week from Newport Center and is boarding with her husband at John Lee's. Mr. Wilson is looking for a tenement.

There was no school here from Wednesday to Tuesday, two of the teachers, Misses Martin and Lord being in Albany and South Fairlee, respectively, over the holiday. There will be school here Saturday.

WALDEN
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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaw were called to Concord last Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Shaw's sister.

Miss Marion Badger and Marion Rogers were at home for Thanksgiving from Barre where they are attending school.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Kingsbury of Montpelier spent Thanksgiving at G. H. Kingsbury's.

The Ladies' Mite society will have a sale of useful and fancy articles at Woodman's hall on Thursday evening of this week.

Miss Stella Wilson has gone to Peacham to teach the winter term of school in the "Green Bay" district.

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith of East Peacham and Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Shaw of Cabot were Thanksgiving guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Shaw.

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